

III. Remarks

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the phone interview on April 4, 2005.

Claims 1-15 of the present application are rejected and pending. For clarification, the Applicants have amended Figures 1-3 as suggested by the Examiner. With the amendments provided herein, the Applicants respectfully request for reconsideration and a withdrawal of all objections and rejections.

Objections to the Specification

Responsive to the objections of the specification, the specification as originally filed does not include informalities as asserted by the Examiner on page 3, paragraph 3 of the Office action. For example, in the Office action, the Examiner appears to have based the objections on the belief that the body 20 is detached from the shaft assembly 12. In the Office action, the Examiner states that "[n]o further explanation on how the body 20 is detached from the shaft is provided." See Office action, Page 3, paragraph 3.

However, as mentioned to the Examiner during the case interview, the shaft assembly 12 is comprised of a detachable body 20 and a preloaded bearing assembly 22. "[T]he detachable half shaft assembly 12 includes a detachable body 20 and a preloaded bearing assembly 22 preloaded about the detachable body 20 to be attached to knuckle 21." Specification, paragraph [0013]; see *also* claims 1 and 9 as filed. Moreover, the specification clearly mentions that the detachable half shaft assembly 12 is detachable from the shaft bell 14 or the disc rotor 16. "[T]he detachable half shaft assembly 12 is detached from the shaft bell 14 or the disc rotor 16." Specification, paragraph [0018]; See *also* claims 1 and 9 as filed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Responsive to the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, it is unclear as what specifically the Examiner asserts to be indefinite. More specifically, as mentioned above, the Examiner appears to have based the rejections on the belief that the body 20 is detached from the shaft assembly 12. In

the Office action, the Examiner states that "[t]he specification simply mention a detachable body 20 and it is unclear how detachability of the body is achieved from the shaft." Office action, page 4, paragraph 4 (emphasis added).

Contrarily, as mentioned above, the shaft assembly 12 is comprised of a detachable body 20 and a preloaded bearing assembly 22. "[T]he detachable half shaft assembly 12 includes a detachable body 20 and a preloaded bearing assembly 22 preloaded about the detachable body 20 to be attached to knuckle 21." Specification, paragraph [0013]; see *also* claims 1 and 9 as filed. Moreover, the specification clearly mentions that the detachable half shaft assembly 12 is detachable from the shaft bell 14 or the disc rotor 16. "[T]he detachable half shaft assembly 12 is detached from the shaft bell 14 or the disc rotor 16." Specification, paragraph [0018] (emphasis added); see *also* claims 1 and 9 as filed.

However, the Applicants have amended the drawings for clarification of the shaft bells 14, 114, 214 and the inboard interfaces 30, 130, 230. Thus, with the drawing amendments, the Applicants assert that claims 1-15 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Thus, claims 1-15 are in a condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

April 8, 2005

Date



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Attachment: Three Replacement Sheets of Drawings

II. Amendments to the Drawings

Responsive to the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) that "Fig 1 of the drawings shows 14 and 30 to be the same part," the Applicants have amended the drawings for clarification purposes to show that the lead-lines of reference numerals 14, 114, 214 point to the shaft bells 14, 114, 214 respectively, and the lead-lines of reference numerals 30, 130, 230 respectively point to the inboard interfaces 30, 130, 230. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraphs [0013], [0018], [0021], and [0026] of the specification and Figures 1-3 in the drawings (see phantom lines) of present application as originally filed.

Responsive to the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) that the "drawings show a continuous solid shaft with no coupling or connecting member adjacent thereof," the Applicants have amended the drawings as mentioned above. More specifically, Figures 1-3 now more clearly depict the members referenced by reference numerals 14, 114, 214 as the shaft bells 14, 114, 214. Support for the amendment can be found in paragraphs [0013], [0018], [0021], and [0026] of the specification and Figures 1-3 in the drawings (see phantom lines) of present application as originally filed. Thus, reconsideration and a withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.